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R&D 2016 Senior, Junior and Blue Jacket Sailor of the Year Awards

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From NMRC Public Affairs



The 2016 Senior Sailor of the Year is Hospital Corpsman First Class Yusupha Kah, the Junior Sailor of the Year is Hospital Corpsman Second Class Alison Heads, and the Blue Jacket of the Year award is Hospital Corpsman Third Class Justin L. Heads. (right to left)

SILVER SPRING, Md. – The Sailor of the Year (SOY) program is an opportunity for Sailors who have a history of command impact, mission contribution, proven leadership, a dedication to self-improvement and outstanding professionalism, to be recognized. The Naval Medical Research and Development Enterprise recently recognized three of its own as the cream of the crop by selecting the Enterprise's Senior Sailor, Junior Sailor and Bluejacket of the Year for 2016.

The 2016 Senior Sailor of the Year is Hospital Corpsman First Class Yusupha Kah, the Junior Sailor of the Year is Hospital Corpsman Second Class Alison Heads, and the Blue Jacket of the Year award is Hospital Corpsman Third Class Justin L. Heads.

Chief Hospital Corpsman Paul Duncan, Senior Enlisted Leader, Naval Medical Research Center said, "Superior on-the-job performance, a dedication to duty and community, and exceptional leadership skills are just a few of the qualities that define what it means to be chosen as Sailor of the Year."

HM1 Kah was born in Banjul, Gambia – his family immigrated to the United States of America in May of 1997. After a tour of duty at the Naval Ambulatory Care Center in Groton, Connecticut, graduating from the Advanced Medical Laboratory School at the Naval School of Health Sciences in Portsmouth, Virginia, and being stationed at the Naval Weapons Station in Yorktown, Virginia, HM1 Kah was assigned to NMRC as the Directorate Leading Petty Officer for Administration in Silver Spring, Maryland. In September 2014, he deployed to Liberia in

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support of Operation United Assistance with the Joint Task Force United Assistance in response to the Ebola outbreak in West Africa. A summary of HM1 Kah's awards include the Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal (six awards), Flag Letters of Commendation, and numerous campaign and service awards.

HM2 Heads was born and raised in Phoenix, Arizona. After enlisting in the Navy and completing basic training, she went to Fort Sam Houston for Hospital Corpsman "A" School, where she graduated top of her class after which she was stationed in Yokosuka, Japan. She spent time working in pediatrics and dermatology in Japan, and began taking classes towards completing prerequisites for nursing school. She was transferred to the Naval Medical Research Center in 2015, where she is currently assigned to the administration department and works in the headquarters suite, directly under the Commanding and Executive officers. Her awards include the Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal, being selected for Blue Jacket of the year in 2013, Junior Sailor of the Quarter for the 2nd and 4th quarter of 2014, and her current achievement, Junior Sailor of the Year 2016.

HM3 Heads was born and raised in Compton, California. He enlisted in the Navy as a Hospital Corpsman. After attending Recruit Training Command in Great Lakes, Illinois, and attending the Hospital Corpsman "A" School, he was assigned to the U.S. Naval Hospital Yokosuka in Yokosuka, Japan. Over the course of his three year tour, HM3 Heads worked at the Hospital's Family Practice Clinic supporting 2,220 eligible beneficiaries in a forward deployed environment. He also managed to volunteer 1300 off duty hours serving the local and military communities – he received the military Outstanding Volunteer Service Medal. HM3 Heads reported to NMRC in May 2015, where he is serving as a general duty Corpsman. His command collateral duties include Morale, Welfare and Recreation Secretary, Member of the Command Assessment Team and Command Family Care Plan Coordinator. He was also selected as the NMRC Blue Jacket of the Quarter, 3rd Quarter 2016.

ASTMH 2016

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